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24 OCT 1963

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Excerpt of paras. 3 - 7
11 - 12

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: DCI Briefing of CIA Subcommittees of Senate Armed
Services and Senate Appropriations Committees -
29 October 1963 - 10:00 a. m.**

**1. The Director met with the CIA Subcommittees of Senate
Armed Services and Senate Appropriations Committees. Senators
present were:**

**Richard B. Russell
Leverett Saltonstall
John Stennis
Milton R. Young**

**From the Committee staff: William Darden.
Accompanying the Director were:**

**Albert D. Wheelon
Ray S. Cline
James Critchfield
John S. Warner**

**There was a technical sweep of the room and no transcript was taken.
The meeting consumed about 2 1/2 hours. The briefing went generally
in accord with the attached agenda.**

Declassification Review by NGA

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OX CART

3. Dr. Wheelon then briefed on the OXCART program indicating there had been 424 flights with almost 600 hours in the air. With the J-58 engines there have been 134 flights with approximately 145 hours. He

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pointed out that eight of the aircraft were now flying with a ninth being assembled. He mentioned the one that had crashed. Mr. McCone discussed the cause of the accident and the conduct of the pilot after parachuting. He pointed out that it was believed there were no serious security ramifications to the crash.

4. Dr. Wheelon continued stating that they had reached altitudes of [redacted] Wheelon then touched on the roughness problem in the ranges of 2.4 and 2.7 mach. However, he indicated that it appeared we were well on the way to a solution to this difficulty.



a. The Director stated that the President's designee to look into this over-all problem, Eugene Black, has been cleared and briefed on OXCART. Black, after talking with the various companies, has reported that none of the other companies had any knowledge of the program. The DCI pointed out that other companies have raised the problems of machining and welding titanium whereas in fact this problem has already been solved.

6. The Director discussed the possibility of bringing out into the open the technology involved possibly utilizing NASA. The Director also



7. Dr. Wheelon resumed his briefing pointing out that each flight breaks an existing world record in that they are in truly new fields of the art. He pointed out that the inertial navigation system has worked better than the specifications. [redacted]

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SOVIET RECONNAISSANCE

11. In response to a question, Wheelon mentioned the Mandrake which is a Soviet version of a U-2 type aircraft of which they have about 15 or 20. Mr. McCone stated there was no information on Soviet reconnaissance of the U. S. other than their satellites but that their

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AGENCY U-2 ACTIVITIES

12. Dr. Wheelon then briefed on U-2 activities in three parts:

a. Wheelon listed the CIA U-2s; [redacted]

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[redacted] three on loan to SAC for Cuba overflights, two at Lockheed for conversion, and one as a test bed vehicle. Wheelon pointed out that in August a U-2 had taken off from the carrier KITTY HAWK in less than 300 feet with a full fuel load. Two are now being modified for tailhooks and beefed up landing gear for carrier operations and will be ready in March of 1964. Wheelon stressed the obvious advantage of carrier operations which would require no foreign base rights. Wheelon then commented on placement of a satellite camera in the U-2, utilizing pictures to show the contrast. The pictures were taken half an hour apart over an airfield in Cuba. Wheelon pointed out that resolution at 70,000 feet with the U-2 is normally [redacted] with this camera the resolution is down [redacted] Three flights with this camera have been flown over Cuba and this configuration will be sent over China.

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b. Contrary to press reports, SAC is continuing to run the overflights of Cuba. Wheelon stated that USIB has relaxed the requirement of full coverage every seven days to fourteen days with a net improvement. He pointed out that there had been 87 overflights in the last 90 days, adding that we are now running some missions [redacted] Wheelon stated that while there have been no efforts at interception, the Russians are continuing to turn over the SA-2 sites to the Cubans but only with the less modern radar. Wheelon pointed out that if the Cubans fire the SA-2 this will require the hard decision of whether or not to [redacted] In response to a question, it was indicated that there have been no low level flights for several months.

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c. In the Southeast Asia area, Dr. Wheelon showed the chart of missions during the last 90 days and stated that there is evidence of increasing resistance and efforts at interception. On a recent mission, a SA-2 site had the U-2 under tracking for 30 minutes. He explained that generally [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It was indicated that we can see no unusual CHICOM activity on the Indian border. In response to a question it was stated there is no basic change in North Korea although there are the previous build-ups and construction contrary to the agreements. Wheelon exhibited a picture of the air-cooled reactor at Paotou where the first Chinese nuclear weapon will be fabricated. Also exhibited was a picture of the gaseous fusion plant at Lanchou which clearly indicates that they are moving ahead. Wheelon indicated that in connection with the missile test range, we have searched and now located a factory where the missiles are now made.

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